

38. (NEW) An electronic mail managing system according to Claim 31, wherein the electronic mail managing apparatus is a telephone.--

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed December 29, 1999, the disclosure was objected to because of informalities, the claims were objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.126, and claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Wang (U.S. Patent No. 5,757,891) in view of Murakami (U.S. Patent No. 5,590,178). The foregoing objections and rejections are respectfully traversed.

In response to the subject application, the specification and claims are amended, and new claims 9-38 are added (of which claims 9, 17, 24, and 31 are independent claims). Care has been exercised to avoid the introduction of new matter.

Thus, claims 1-38 are now pending, of which claims 1, 7, 8, 9, 17, 24, and 31 are independent claims.

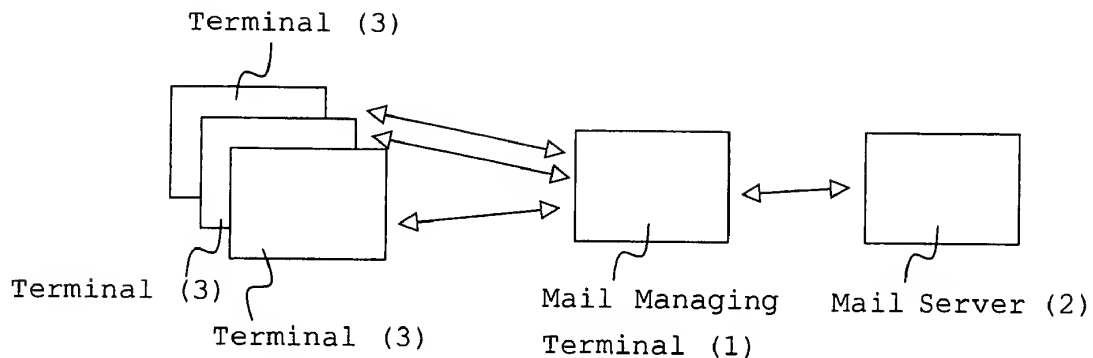
The specification is amend, taking the Examiner's comments into consideration. Withdrawal of the objections to the specification is respectfully requested.

The specification is further amended for clarification.

Claim "7" (second occurrence on page 25 of the present specification) is amended to be numbered as claim --8--. Withdrawal of the objections to the claims under 37 C.F.R 1.126 is respectfully requested.

Present Invention

As recited in each of independent claims 1, 7, 8, 9, 17, 24, and 31 of the present application, the present invention is an electronic mail managing apparatus (1) connectable at least to a mail server (2) and a plurality of terminal devices (3). More particularly, the present invention is arranged as shown:



The present invention is organized with the above-mentioned relationship between three elements, namely, the mail managing terminal, the mail server and the terminals.

Wang (U.S. Patent No. 5,757,891)

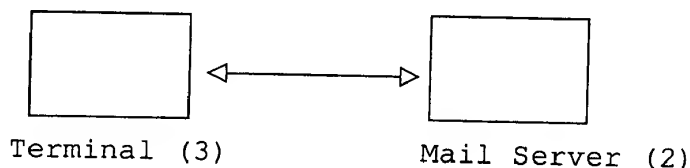
As shown in Fig. 1 of Wang, the Wang apparatus relates to a telephone answering machine provided between a telephone and a phone line and having an e-mail receiving function. According to the disclosure of Wang, the telephone answering machine of the Wang apparatus merely receives the e-mail.

Murakami (U.S. patent No. 5,590,178)

Murakami relates to portable telephone accessing an electronic mail center and receiving electronic mail. The Examiner's assertions that the Murakami apparatus has "memory status means for storing each status of the electronic mail stored in the mail memory so as to correspond to each of a plurality of terminal devices" as in the present invention are respectfully traversed. A "memory status means", if existing in the Murakami apparatus, would be provided in the mail server of the Murakami apparatus.

Combination of Wang and Murakami

The apparatus which would result from the combination of the Wang apparatus and the Murakami apparatus is a telephone answering apparatus provided between a telephone line and a portable telephone and providing an e-mail receiving function. The arrangement of each of the Wang apparatus and the Murakami apparatus is shown:



The Wang apparatus and the Murakami apparatus are both organized with relationships between the above-mentioned, two elements.

Recitations of independent claims 1, 7, 8, 9, 17, 24, and 31 of the present application

The electronic mail managing apparatus (1) connectable at least to a mail server (2) and a plurality of terminal devices (3) of the present invention, then, comprises access means for accessing to the mail server; mail memory means for storing therein an electronic mail downloaded from the mail server through the access means; mail status memory means for storing therein each status of the electronic mail stored in the mail memory so as to correspond to each of the plurality of the terminal devices; and transmission means for transmitting the electronic mail stored in the mail memory to one of the terminal devices.

Independent claim 1 of the present application recites a "telephone with an electronic mail managing function, said telephone capable of connecting with at least a mail server and a

plurality of terminal devices". Also as recited in claim 1, the telephone comprises "access means for accessing to the mail server; mail memory means for storing therein an electronic mail downloaded from the mail server through the access means; mail status memory means for storing therein each status of the electronic mail stored in the mail memory so as to correspond to each of the plurality of the terminal devices; and transmission means for transmitting the electronic mail stored in the mail memory to one of the terminal devices".

Independent claims 7 (a method claim) and 8 (a storage medium claim) recite features similar to the features recited in independent claim 1.

A benefit of the foregoing features of the present invention is that integrated e-mail management is provided.

Dependent claims 2-6 (dependent from claim 1) recite patentably distinguishing features of their own. For example, claim 2/1 recites "wherein said mail status memory means stores whether or not the electronic mail is down-loaded to each of the terminal devices", a benefit of which is that the present invention is that electronic mail can be integratively managed by referring to a mail status memory.

New, independent claim 9 of the present application recites an "electronic mail managing apparatus capable of communicating with a mail server which stores therein an electronic mail sent to an address". The "electronic mail managing apparatus" recited in claim 9 comprises "a receiving unit receiving from the mail server an electronic mail addressed to a predetermined address", and "a mail memory unit storing the received electronic mail", wherein "the electronic mail managing apparatus is capable of communicating with a plurality of terminal devices, and comprising a transmitting unit transmitting the electronic mail stored in the mail memory unit and received thereof from the mail server to one of the plurality of terminal devices in response to an access made by said terminal device".

Each of new, independent claims 17 (a method), 24 (a storage medium), and 31 (a system) recites features similar to those recited in new, independent claim 9.

A benefit of the foregoing features of the present invention is that integrated e-mail management is provided.

Moreover, dependent claims 10-16 (depending from claim 9); 18-23 (depending from claim 17); 25-30 (depending from claim 24); and 32-38 (depending from claim 31) recite patentably distinguishing features of their own. For example, claim 10 recites "mail status memory means for storing each status of the electronic mail stored in the mail memory unit so as to correspond to each of the plurality of the terminal devices", a benefit of which is that the present invention is that electronic mail can be integratively managed by referring to a mail status memory.

Benefits of the Present Invention

With management information provided by the present invention in a managing terminal as opposed to mail server, a benefit of the features of the present invention is that integrated management of e-mail is provided, with out imposing a burden on the provider server. Moreover in the present invention, electronic mail is received from the mail server, and the received electronic mail is further received by the plurality of terminals, which features are not disclosed or suggested by either of the foregoing references relied upon, either alone or in combination.

Another benefit of the present invention is that the present invention manages a plurality of terminals that belongs to one user. For example, a user has a Desktop PC in the user's, a notebook PC that the user carries occasionally, and Palmtop PC that the user always carries. The user has an e-mail address that he contracted with an Internet Service Provider (ISP). Assuming that the user wants to receive e-mails addressed to the user's e-mail address in each of all of the user's PCs, the user has to use the following methods at present, unless the user uses the present invention:

1. the user accesses the ISP using each of the user's PCs and downloads the user's e-mails each time; the PCs must be set not to erase the user's e-mails in the ISP server; or
2. after the user accesses the ISP with one of the user's PCs and downloads the user's e-mail, the user copies the e-mails to the other two PCs in some way.

Both methods are cumbersome and the user has to manage which e-mail belongs to which PC.

However, if the user uses the present invention, the telephone accesses the ISP and the user need not access the ISP with each of all the user's PCs. Moreover, the telephone manages which e-mails are downloaded to which PC, using the present invention.

The present invention provides an even more fundamental usage. Even after the user has downloaded the user's e-mails from the ISP to the user's desktop PC and to the user's notebook PC, but present invention provides additional benefits. Since the telephone displays that there are some e-mails that have not been downloaded to the Palmtop PC yet, the user can acknowledge whether user received the same e-mails in all of the user's PCs by ordering the telephone to transfer the user's e-mails.

Moreover, the present invention is not restricted to being implemented in a telephone, but may be implemented using PCs, a Set Top Box of the CATV, and other apparatus.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejections is respectfully requested.


If there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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